

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In a final Office Action mailed on January 22, 2009, claims 21, 23, 25-34, 36, 38-39, and 46-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,983,270 ("Abraham") and U.S. Patent No. 5,983,274 ("Hyder"). Applicant herein amends claims 21, 27, 30, 34, and 48-49. Claims 21, 23, 25-34, 36, 38-39, and 46-49 are pending.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Choudhury for his consideration during the telephone interviews of March 5, 2009 and March 10, 2009. During the interviews, applicant's representative and Examiner Choudhury discussed (1) whether Abraham's interface allows an administrator to select any field of the protocol for logging and (2) whether Hyder discloses a first data structure that "store[s], for each of the plurality of fields, an indication of whether a field has been selected for logging." Examiner Choudhury suggested amending each of the independent claims to recite that the first data structure stores, for all of the plurality of fields, an indication of whether a particular field has been selected for logging. Examiner Choudhury agreed that the suggested amendment overcomes the rejections under § 103(a) over the combination of Abraham and Hyder. Applicant would like to thank Examiner Choudhury for this helpful suggestion and has amended the claims as suggested. Examiner Choudhury further suggested amending each of the independent claims to recite that the fields are validated. Applicant does not believe that such an amendment is necessary to overcome the rejections under § 103(a) over the combination of Abraham and Hyder. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner Choudhury contact the undersigned attorney if he believes that any additional information regarding the interview is necessary. For reasons discussed in detail below, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over a combination of Abraham and Hyder. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submits that the references, individually and in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the elements recited by the pending claims. Although applicant's arguments here are directed to the cited combination of references, it is necessary to first consider their individual disclosures, in order to ascertain what combination, if any, could be made from them.

- A. The cited combination of references does not disclose or suggest "an interface to allow selection of a protocol, including a selection for logging of some or all of a plurality of fields of the protocol"

In a non-final Office Action dated July 9, 2008, the Examiner asserted that section 14:9-28 of Abraham discloses "an interface to allow selection of a protocol, including a selection for logging of some or all of a plurality of fields of the protocol," as recited by claim 21 (Office Action, July 9, 2008, pp. 2-3). Applicant responded to this assertion by pointing out that, although Abraham's interface allows an administrator to select a protocol for logging, nowhere does Abraham disclose or suggest that its user-interface allows an administrator to select some or all of a plurality of fields of the protocol for logging, as recited (Response to non-final Office Action, October 9, 2008, pp. 10-11). The Examiner responded to applicant in the present Office Action by stating:

[I]f one item related to a protocol is elected for logging, it satisfies the claim requirements. Abraham teaches the logging of at least one item related to a selected protocol hence it satisfies the claim requirement; see column 14, lines 9-28, Abraham.

(Office Action, January 22, 2009, p. 17). First, applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of Abraham. In the cited section, Abraham describes a management program that may be used by an administrator to add a network protocol (Abraham 14:9-28). Specifically, Abraham states:

The system administrator inputs the information requested in the add network protocol window, i.e., the name of the protocol, the port number associated with the protocol, and the commonly known alias for the protocol, and selects a log traffic check box to indicate that IP packets transferred via the network protocol are to be logged.

(*id.*; emphasis added). That is, although Abraham describes a "check box" that is used to select a protocol for logging, nowhere does Abraham disclose or suggest that the management program includes "an interface to allow selection of a protocol, including a selection for logging of some or all of a plurality of fields of the protocol," as recited by claim 21. Second, in response to the Examiner's statement that "if one item related to a protocol is elected for logging, it satisfies the claim requirements," applicant submits that an item related to a protocol (i.e., in Section 14:9-28 of Abraham, the name of the protocol, the port number, and the alias for the protocol) is not the same as a field of the protocol (see, e.g., Figure 3 of applicant's published application showing fields of the HTTP protocol including: timestamp, client's ip address, bytes, etc.). Third, even assuming that an item related a protocol is equivalent to a field of the protocol, applicant submits that Abraham does not disclose or suggest that its management interface allows an administrator to select an item related to the protocol for logging. That is, Abraham does not disclose or suggest that an administrator may select the protocol alias for logging. For each of these reasons, applicant submits that Abraham does not disclose "an interface to allow selection of a protocol, including a selection for logging of some or all of a plurality of fields of the protocol" as recited by claim 21 (emphasis added).

Hyder describes a series of control data structures for implementing a prioritized packet transmission scheme (see, e.g., Hyder, 4:50-60, 8:35-9:12). However, Hyder also fails to disclose or suggest an interface to select some or all of a plurality of fields of the protocol for logging, as recited by claim 21. Thus, applicant submits that claim 21 and each of its dependent claims are patentable over the combination of Abraham and Hyder and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 21, 23, 25-26, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As amended, independent claim 27 recites “receiving inputs via an interface to make a selection for logging of some or all of a plurality of fields of a protocol that may be present in each of said requests and responses and to make a specification of a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear in a log file” (emphasis added). Independent claim 34 recites “an interface to allow selection of a protocol, including a selection for logging of some or all of a plurality of fields of a message to be received from anyone of the origin server and the plurality of clients, the fields corresponding to the selected protocol, and a specification of a sequence in which the selected fields are to appear in a log file of the network cache” (emphasis added). Independent claim 48 recites “receiving a selection of a first number of fields from a plurality of fields of the protocol that may be present in each of the requests and responses, and receiving a specification of a first sequence in which the first number of fields are to appear in a log file of the network cache” (emphasis added). For reasons similar reasons to those discussed in connection with claim 21, application submits that independent claims 27, 34, 48, and each of their dependents are patentable over the combination of Abraham and Hyder. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 27-34, 36, 38-39, and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Abraham and Hyder.

- B. The cited combination of references does not disclose or suggest a first data structure that “store[s], for each of the plurality of fields of the protocol, an indication of whether a field has been selected for logging”

In a non-final Office Action dated July 9, 2008, the Examiner asserted that the numeric offset stored in Hyder’s control data structure is equivalent to applicant’s first data structure, as recited by claim 21 (Office Action, July 9, 2008, pp.3-4). Applicant responded to this assertion by pointing out that, the recited first data structure is not simply a numeric offset, but rather it stores, for each of the plurality of fields of a protocol, an indication of whether a field has been selected for logging and the order in which the selected fields are to appear in a log file (Response to non-final Office Action,

October 9, 2008, pp. 11-12). The Examiner responded to applicant in the present Office Action by stating that

[T]he claims only require one item related to a selected protocol since the language "some" is used.

(Office Action, January 22, 2009, p. 18). Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the Examiner interpretation of the claim contradicts the claim language. Prior to applicant's present amendment, claim 21 recited a first data structure that "store[s], for each of the plurality of fields of the protocol, an indication of whether a field has been selected for logging, wherein when the field has been selected for logging, the indication identifies a position in the specified sequence of the selected field" (emphasis added). That is, the data structure does not store an indication for only the selected fields, as the Examiner suggests, but for all of the fields of the protocol. During the interview of March 10, 2009, the Examiner suggested amending each of the independent claims to recite that the first data structure stores, for all of the plurality of fields of the protocol, an indication of whether a particular field has been selected for logging. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this helpful suggestion and has amended the claims as suggested. For each of these reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the combination of Abraham and Hyder. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 21, 23, 25-34, 36, 38-39, and 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Abraham and Hyder.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8077.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 672728048US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 3/23/09

Respectfully submitted,

By


Judy M. Kadoura

Registration No.: 59,883

PERKINS COIE LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000

(206) 359-7198 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant